



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **WR-4**

September 30, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2756

Dear Supervisors:

**STREAM GAGING STATIONS  
EXTENSION OF THE JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT  
WITH THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY  
OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

Authorize the Chief Engineer of the Flood Control District, or his designee, to extend the joint funding agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to operate and maintain nine stream gaging stations in the Santa Clarity Valley and that portion of the Antelope Valley within the Flood Control District boundary from November 1, 2004, through October 31, 2005, for a not to exceed fee of \$158,400 to be financed by the Fiscal Year 2004-05 Flood Control District budget.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

We are recommending that your Board authorize the Chief Engineer of the Flood Control District, or his designee, to extend the joint funding agreement with USGS to operate and maintain nine stream gaging stations within the Flood Control District. The services will assist Public Works in its efforts to more efficiently operate the flood control and water conservation systems.

Public Works and its predecessor, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, have operated stream gaging stations since the early 1900s. Increased automation over the past 15 years has resulted in the need for a smaller workforce requiring specialized skills to operate the stations. However, increased operational needs at our water conservation facilities have resulted in less staff available to fully manage the stream gaging stations. Therefore, to continue full operation of its 65 stream gaging stations, on September 1, 2001, Public Works entered into an agreement with USGS to upgrade and operate nine stream gaging stations in the Santa Clarita Valley and that portion of the Antelope Valley within the District boundary. We recommend extending the agreement to continue the operation and maintenance by USGS. USGS is a recognized leader in the management of stream gaging stations. They currently provide this service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and to Santa Barbara, Ventura, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties.

#### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Goal of Organizational Effectiveness since it will allow efficient and effective use of specialized services. USGS has the expertise to provide specialized services for Public Works to more effectively manage and operate the stream gaging network.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The recommended agreement extension is for a not to exceed fee of \$158,400.

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. Financing for this extended agreement is available in the Fiscal Year 2004-05 Flood Control District budget.

#### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The agreement was previously approved as to form by County Counsel. According to paragraph 2C of the agreement, the agreement may be extended for additional periods by the mutual consent of the parties.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The work to be performed under this agreement is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Section 15301 of the CEQA guidelines.

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### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

On July 26, 2001, your Board authorized entering into a joint funding agreement with USGS to provide services for upgrading and operating nine stream gaging stations for a not to exceed fee of \$303,000. The terms of the agreement allow the agreement to be extended for additional periods by the mutual consent of the parties. For the next period, the USGS has proposed to provide additional services for a total not to exceed fee of \$158,400. The fee has been reviewed by Public Works and is considered reasonable for the scope of work.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

There will be no negative impact on current County services or projects during the performance of the recommended services.

### **CONCLUSION**

Please return one approved copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE  
Interim Director of Public Works

ECG:jac  
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cc: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel